

Government Railways.

DISCUSSION TRIP TO HAWKSBURY RIVER
GENERAL HOLIDAY.
WEDNESDAY, 28th DECEMBER.
Trains will leave Sydney at 9.55 a.m. and 1.10 p.m. and will occupy five hours, seventy miles by rail and by steam. Return fare, including Steam Trip: First-class, 5s. 6d.; Second-class, 3s. 6d.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued to Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Brisbane and return, 29th December, available for return for a month.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from all stations (except for distances of 15 miles and under between stations in the Metropolitan Suburban and New South Wales Sections) by train until Monday, 1st January, 1900, inclusive, available for return until Wednesday, 3rd January, 1900.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS—In addition to the cheap excursion tickets issued on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, similar tickets at 50 per cent. return (minimum 2s) will be issued at Sydney and Metropolitan Suburban stations to stations outside the Metropolitan Suburban area, and at stations outside the Metropolitan Suburban area to Sydney only by the undermentioned trains, available for return by any train (excepting the Melbourne Express—Northern and Western Mail Trains) as far as the stations between Sydney, Newcastle, and Newcastle, and as far as Newcastle, Thursday, 29th January, 1900, viz.:

SOUTHERN LINE.
FRIDAY, 29th DECEMBER.
FROM SYDNEY: 4.30 p.m. to stations Mitigating to Bundanoon, inclusive.

SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER.
FROM SYDNEY: 9.30 p.m. to stations Mitigating to Bundanoon, inclusive.

SUNDAY, 31st DECEMBER.
FROM SYDNEY: 9.30 a.m. to Bundanoon.

TO SYDNEY: 4.30 a.m. from Bundanoon.

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Palace Theatre.

MR. HARRY RICKARDS.
TYVOLL MEMORABLE AND SENSATIONAL COMPANY.
MATINEE AT 2.30 AND 8.15.
First performance in Australia of another Great European Novel, *THE GREAT NEWSPAPER*, by J. M. G. Le Clezio.

THE GREAT NEWSPAPER.

These Great Artists are acknowledged throughout Europe as the greatest of the present time, and have been the cause of the most successful theatrical performance of the season.

PROF. DAVIES' MARIONETTES.
A Marvel of Ingenuity. "He Never Touched Me."

G. W. HUNTER.
Represents the Great Comedian and Comedian.

THE BELL BALLET.
Introducing Miss DORA TAYLOR, Premier Dancer.

MISS VIOLET ELIOT.
Represents the Great Comedian and Comedian.

MISS LILLIAN SINGLIER.
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Criterion Theatre.

THE ONLY WAY.
MATINEE-MONDAY NEXT, JANUARY 1st, at 2.30 p.m.
Theatricals, Mr. J. C. WILLIAMS.
Mr. J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams.

THE ONLY WAY.

"There is a story and happy life together in our new play, *THE ONLY WAY*, by J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams."

"Pretty little, sweet, warm, now it will show."

"Where alone, the power tells us, angels are hovering."

"My dream is a dream, and my complaint that bottles hold no little."

"In my dream I see him waiting, and there in the black night, dim and lonely, near the gutter."

"You are going to take his place? YOU are going to do him."

"You have given me more than I can ever tell. Some power thought, a few hours' rest, perhaps a light to shine in the darkness that is so near."

"Faith, you are a strange people, you English. May I share your land?"

"This and every evening, at 8, THE ONLY WAY."

"A TALE OF TWO CITIES."

"Adapted by J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams."

"J. C. WILLIAMS' DUALITY TO COMMISSION."

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OUR AMERICAN LETTER

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THE TRANSVALA WAR.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.

A war could hardly be imagined which, to the north of the Tiber, would be more than the one in South Africa, which is to be a war of what the surgeons call "circumscribed infection," for the heat that the Boers can hope to hold the British Empire for a greater or lesser period at bay. Yet so closely interwoven are the interests of the modern world that the effects of this war, even in America, are already of a serious and of manifold variety. The continental plutocrats are paying out more money for foodstuffs than they are getting for their exports, because British purchasers have swept nearly all the desirable animals out of the market, and they are only getting it back, if at all, in the almost impossible

form of extra thirty-second of a penny a year hence. But while raisers are prosperous, so also are the canned-goods' men, who have loaded into Tommy Atkins' laden about as much stock new or old that could decently pass as chawable. Taken as a whole, however, American trade has lost heavily for the Transvaal bazaar to be one of the markets where there is a bazaar rather than against American wares. New York has a grievance of her own and of an American type, for many hundreds of the Johannesburg refugees, instead of going to their home in the East End of London, have come hither, although they are extremely undesirable and unwelcome, they seem in most cases to have no money to save themselves from being

enough to be excluded as paupers. And, of course, the financial world is annoyed by the war, because the price of money has risen, and, what is worse still, fluctuates almost from day to day in a way that has taught all nice calculations, and makes every transaction involving time more or less of a gambling venture. The high interest, however, is not the result of scarcity, for London money is neither increased her borrowings from New York nor American securities to any extent whatever than is easily compensated by the current supply of this country. This has been made certain because when, in order to take advantage of the situation, the New York bankers suddenly advanced the rate from 12 to 20 per cent, the New

tary of the Treasury offered to buy 20,000,000 pounds of bonds at the highest figure of the market, the banks, who own probably seven-eighths of the bonds as a guarantee of their circulation of notes, only saw fit to sell 7,000,000 pounds. At the Federal Treasury, too, gold continues to be received in exchange, not for paper currency (for the Government, a year ago, refused loan to give out its stock of greenbacks in that way, but for gold certificates of deposit. In all, the national stock of gold has risen to a certainty less than 1,100,000,000, without taking account secret hoards, and nearly one-quarter of this is stored in the Federal vaults. Evidently, therefore, the rise in interest is simply a

BRITISH AND BOER OVERTURES TO AMERICA.

Both sides are doing their best to get the people of the United States to see the war through their own glasses. John Hays Hammond, Rhodes' loyal lieutenant, has come home, and interviews, both published and unpublished, clinching home as hard as he can the stern that the Uitlanders, owning one-half the land and seven eighths of the property in the Transvaal have the same sacred revolutionary right to representation as the heroes of 1876. In a lower ap-

Dr. Henry Wood, one of our greatest Mississippians, is lecturing wherever he can get a public, and his people before Professor Smith's new invention has made it possible. And these are the two new things that have made it possible, and as the hour nears for the assembling of the Congress the newspapers are filled with letters from all over the country. But the Boers, although they are shown to make an active crusade with the current, at any rate in the Atlantic States, is running against them, are so much inactive, especially among the colored, and their vivid descriptions of the white man as gambling, pot-smoking, and vice-ridden are no doubt in the eyes of the American a just defence for denying to the Boers the right of governing themselves.

well as themselves. At intervals of a few days there also appears somewhere—always in a safe and useful medium—a tentative appeal for the Boers from a fresh point of view, as if to force in a new direction in which, at a later stage, effort and sacrifice most profitably be expended. This is far from being skilfully managed to be the result of accident, and the appointment of General O'Beirne to the post of "New York Herald" reporter, who by the favour of General Grant rose to high honour as an agent of the Transvaal, no doubt explains it in a great measure. Much or little American sympathy may amount to, the Boers are working to secure it with intelligence, patience and untiring zeal. Up to the present, however,

it is worth noting that neither side has reduced upon what in the West and South will grow to be great deal—the striking from the list of two or three monarchical states. This is because in the East and Middle States, where the discussion has so far been mainly conducted, it is taught in the colleges that in America the checks upon democratic excoemes are to-day mere numerous efficient than in monarchical Great Britain. names are not yet empty nothing, and perhaps in the Senate we may yet hear not a little upon a hitherto undeveloped branch of the controversy.

THE APPROACHING MEETING OF THE CONGRESS.

At any rate, in regard to this and many of

matters all flourish will soon be fulfilled. I am
 hence the flag will fly upon the Capitol as a warn-
 to the world that Congress is again sitting,
 that the President's nine months of abso-
 lute uncurbed authority have come to an end. The
 despot is even now secluded in the White House
 giving the last effective touches of plausibility
 to the Message in which he must, by law, justify
 his claims to his stewardship. In domestic
 affairs he has never once interfered
 with the routine conduct of affairs, and
 even in matters of patronage, instead
 of trying to fill places with his own personal
 friends, as Mr. Cleveland did, he has appointed
 the spoils with an equal hand to every party
 friendly or otherwise, of his party. This is the

statecraft, and explains perhaps why every
publican President except one, since Lincoln,
was an Ohio man. In what he will say at
foreign business, in much of which discre-
tion and not fixed rules and precedents must
be used, interest is very keen, for what
known argument that there is something
yet to be disclosed, without which it is un-
thinkable. There must be, for example, a substi-
tutal quid pro quo to induce the Senate, by
two-thirds vote, to approve the Anglo-Ger-
man agreement about Samoa. Other conces-
sions, favours, and courtesies are all in the same di-
rection, and must have a hidden meaning
which will sugar-coat the pill. What is it? or rather

what are they? for all sections of the country must be consolidated, and no single recognition of American power would seem to be quite enough. The harbour of Manila is by no means practically impregnable, or could be made so at a few hours' notice, and would be taken by army of 65,000 American soldiers at present in the islands are more than equal to repel attack from without. There is, therefore, no longer price to be paid for non-interference, such might have been exacted a year ago. Acquisition in the American claim to build and control the Nicaragua canal, in some form, is no part of the consideration. But, standing alone that would be simply a session of what might be called *the world's mind*.

without his consent, and would fall very flat as a triumph of American diplomacy, such as a Presidential veto, the party in power bound, as a means of self-perpetuation to furnish. Perhaps another part of consideration is an "open door" in China, it is officially announced that this Government has requested pledges in writing from all Powers, England included, that American rights in Chinese trade shall be acknowledged for ever what they are under existing treaties. England, of course, is only nominally a feudal in such a suit, and yet there are signs which seem to show that she might have grown to demur. In 1899 her sales of plain cotton

China was 4,000,000 yards less than in 1906 while American sales were 73,000,000 yards more—an advance of 24 per cent. of the total trade—and a gain in American exports of more than 60 per cent. in one year. But 90 per cent of this American cloth is reexported from Shanghai to Chefoo, Tientsin, and Newchwang, and if these places are to be closed ports, both England and America will suffer in common. Shall they agree upon a joint policy and then fight out between themselves the primacy of the markets, or shall the United States persevere in its traditional course and seek, by special reciprocity treaties which probably Russia gladly and Japan

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answer would not have been doubtful, but the neutrality of Great Britain in the Spanish war has reversed the position. Mr. McKinley is certainly in favour of an understanding with Great Britain that the door shall be kept open at all hazards, and it will be interesting to watch how far he will succeed in bringing the Senate to the same view. For it cannot too often be insisted upon that the Senate, and not the Executive, is in such matters the tribunal of last resort.

COMMERCIAL LEGISLATION IN VIEW.

The President's closest friend, Senator Hanna will push his subsidy shipping bill this session with might and main, and now that there is a surplus in the revenue, Congress may possibly adopt this plan of getting rid of it. Concededly, however, there are many objections to the scheme, nor is it clear that the maximum subsidy that could be granted would be enough to put the American carrying trade again upon its feet. There are four other proposed plans of reaching the same object, but so many American interests are interwoven with these, as they are that direct attack

upon the foreign steamship companies are extremely difficult. The annual shipping reports, however, shows that the American share of the foreign carrying trade is still growing beautifully, and is now only 3 per cent. of the whole. Two years ago a solution of the problem seemed to be found in the success of the iron man it was turning out plates cheaper than Europeans, and, of course, sooner or later, iron ship building will have its seat where iron is cheapest and most abundant. But the sudden development of an enormous new demand for iron in the United States, the result of the

for iron has meant prices all above the minimum necessary for the iron industry to maintain its point of profitable production in this country. In the time, no doubt, this iron famine will cease, and the foreign makers will again have to struggle hard to keep their ground. But for several years to come this is hardly to be looked for. The revival of trade so blocked American railroads that they have been forced to find a way of increasing their capacity, and long ago, in the great outburst of traffic, all tracks feasible had been laid down.

The only expansion possible, therefore, was in making each track do more work, and

It is best reached by substituting steel cars for iron ones, carrying capacity for wooden cars, which, at their strongest, cannot be made to carry safely more than 20 tons. These heavy cars also in their turn demand heavier rails, and for 10 years to come, probably, enormous amounts of steel will thus be called for. The use of structural iron, too, in building is still in its infancy, especially in American industry has now discovered methods of getting strength without resorting to more weight and thickness.

DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT HOBART
 The death of Vice-President Hobart signals the

curious fact that, even in the minds of the Fathers of the Constitution, the vice-presidency was a sort of fifth wheel to the state coach, for there is no provision for appointing a successor until the next quadrennial election. The duty of presiding over the Senate will be performed by a senator selected by the Senate; and if the president should die his place would be filled by the Secretary of State. It has been the rule hitherto at Washington that the relations between President and Vice-President should be always cool and often antagonistic, but Mr. McKinley and Mr. Hobart are reported to be on the best of terms.

of personal friends. Both men had a social instinct abnormally developed, and in Mr. Hobari's case, unfortunately, it took the form of giving and attending great feasts. He long ago he laughingly said that he had not dined with anyone for 83 consecutive days, and the doctors now make no concealment of the fact that he literally died himself to death. This is the more credible when one remembers that at a practically every Washington dinner of the first-rate rank there are served terrapin and canvas-back duck—two tempting to be sent away unfasted.

ADMIRAL DEWEY AND THE AMERICAN NATION.

Admiral Dewey has discovered, to his cost, how fickle is the favour of the multitude. Only a month ago he was the idol of the time, and nothing was too good for him. Among other things a 50,000-dollar house was offered to him, and since the money for it had been raised by more than 37,000 subscribers, and no one could therefore lay claim to having put him under a serious obligation, it was accepted. A fortnight ago the Admiral married the widow of General Hazen.

and was advised by the lawyers that the easiest way to extinguish his wife's right of dower in the house was to convey it to her absolutely and then have her reconvey it to his son, retaining for him and her a life interest in the property. But, unluckily, the two conveyances were not recorded at the same time, and some of the yellow journals saw a chance for a sensation and made the most of it. And then abusive letters by the hundred poured into the Admiral's letterbox, and scores of subscribers to the house fund demanded their money back. Worse still, not a voice was raised in his

defence by even one among the millions who had cheered him as he passed in triumph through the streets of the great cities, although a vast number of better-informed persons must have seen some of just the reason for what had been done. And now, when the Admiral has been forced to make his true position clear, the tide has of course again turned the other way, and letters by the thousand are coming in with assurances of affectionate devotion. But, even for its own protection, that creature of spite and whim, the public, can hardly be too quickly and strictly taught, with what the

SOCIAL STATISTICS OF AMERICA.

Statistics is an American weakness which, like many other good things, may be sometimes abused, but which now and then really leads to tangible and useful results. Thus the carefully registered records of the college classes show indisputably that the higher education is unfavourable to matrimony and to the perpetuation of the race. In every class there are men who are born to competence, and these help to

encountered this tendency; and if they could be eliminated, the record would prove far more positively than now the fact that as a class in America the lettered and professional men have a very hard time in getting a living. Marriage is, of course, the test of wellbeing, for the normal man gets married as soon as he can see his way to providing for a family. In the Harvard class of 1875, 18 years after graduation, only 105 out of 140 had married, and in the Yale class of 1891, in eight years after graduation, only 57 out of 135 had married. Of course, in American colleges, the same families are

represented from one generation to another; and in the Harvard class instanced above 105 marriages out of 140 members were represented by 104 children, while the Yale class in 57 marriages in eight years could only show 49 children. Evidently the cultured classes in America, like the populations of great cities, are a vanishing quantity, useful in their day and generation, no doubt, but doomed to extinction.

POLICE COURTS.

Bad Language.—At the Paddington Police Court yesterday, before Mr. James Muir, S.M., John Hae, or Ryan, aged 28, steamer, was charged with using obscene language in Oakley-road, Paddington, on Christmas Day, and was fined £2, or in default 14 days. William O'Connell, also charged with using obscene language in Oakley-road, Paddington, on the night of Saturday, 23rd inst., was fined 10s, or three days. Thomas Binks (Jr.), driver, was fined 2s, or three months' imprisonment, at the Central Police Court yesterday for uttering language

Assault.—At the Central Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Smithers, S.M., John O'Kenne (27), labourer, was fined £5, or two months' imprisonment, for assaulting Frank Emerson.

Furious Driving.—Thomas Donnellan (18),^s clerk, charged at the Central Police Court yesterday with furiously driving a horse and sulky in Kent-street, was fined £2.

Offending Against Decency.—At the Paddington Police Court yesterday, before Mr. James Main, S.M., an old man named Robert Evenson, described as a labourer, was fined 10s, levy and distress, or in default three days' gaol, for an offence against decency.

LAW NOTICES.

SUPREME COURT.—Wednesday, December 27.
Chamber. Law—At 10 a.m.: Ex parte Houghton, prohibition; Marshall v. Greer and another.
In Bankruptcy.—Before the Acting Registrar in Bankruptcy—At 11 a.m.: Re Edward Fletcher, jun., ex animation under section 33.

THE DRINK—P-A-M EXCELLENCE.
Try's Oolong. Do you see yet E.T.H.—adv.

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t large number of private picnic parties and ^{industry} gatherings were held at Bronte yesterday where change set in from the south. Sports were

held at Hunter, and O'Connell streets, Sydney, N.S.W.—*Adv.*

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